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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
Marketing Reports Division
821 Market Street, Room 700
San Francisco 3, California
Western Region

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending December 1, 1944

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apples: U. S. wholesalers received average daily movement of 234 cars during the past week. Total movement last year to date, 19,667 cars, this year 28,195 cars, still over 40 percent greater than last year. California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington apples continue plentiful.

Western wholesale prices at close of week, for packed and wrapped, Fancy and Extra Fancy, \$3.25 to \$3.70 in the Northwest, and to \$4.50 in the Southwest. Varieties; mostly Delicious, Ortleys, Newtown Pippins, Winesaps, and Spitzembergs.

Oranges: Arizona, California and Florida carlot movement to date this year 10,370 cars, 14 percent lower than 1943 this date. 1,716 cars this week for U.S. wholesale markets, 2,569 last year same week.

Western wholesale prices at close of the week, \$4.50 to \$5.83 all sizes.

Cabbage: Western Region states furnished 38 percent of shipments moving to U.S. wholesale markets the past week. Total shipments past week 336 cars, last year same week 473 cars. States contributing; Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington and Utah.

Wholesale prices on western markets closed the week at \$2.00 to \$3.50 per crate local stock, Arizona and Utah stock in 50 pound sacks \$1.75 to \$2.00.

Cauliflower: Arizona, California and New York moved 171 cars into the U.S. wholesale markets the past week, 70 percent out of the first two states. Total to date this season 2,527 cars, last season same date 1,833 cars.

Western wholesale prices, mostly \$1.25 to \$2.25, some \$2.50 and some \$1.00 per crate (dozen heads average).

Potatoes: Shipments picked up again at the end of the week after having declined from the week previous. Reason, increase in ceiling effective December 1. Announcement of price support schedule being extended through April 1945, may encourage growers and shippers to ship and sell at a slower rate thus spreading present supplies over a longer time. Amended schedules will be available at the War Board offices and all OD offices. U. S. total shipments at close of week 152,395 cars, last season to same date 168,188 cars. Idaho, at the close of the week had shipped 16,244 cars, 200 cars more than last year by the same date. Potatoes from Canada have averaged about 35 cars daily for the past week, mostly seed stock.

F.o.b. shipping point sales Western Region mostly quoted December 1st ceilings. Wholesale prices \$3.00 to \$3.65, mostly around \$3.55 U.S. #1 Size A. Bakers as high as \$4.20.

Lettuce: 1,021 cars moved to wholesale markets during the past week, principally from Arizona, California, Oregon and Idaho, making the seasons total from the fall crop 8,322 cars, compared with 8,202 cars last season on same date.

Dry pack stock on western wholesale markets brought \$3.50 to \$4.95 per crage of 4 to 5 dozen heads, highest in the Northwest where some iced stock brought \$5.00.

California lettuce has been coming from the central areas, principally Salinas-Watsonville. Beginning this month, B.A.E. reports, Imperial Valley stock should be moving in carload lots.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: Indications throughout the nation, butter and cheese production close to seasonal low. Upswing may soon be in evidence, a welcome thought when markets are "firm" and supplies much below demand. U.S.D.A. reports show butter production, for week ending November 25, to be 3 percent below the previous week and 10 percent below the same week a year ago.

Eggs: Grade A Small up 3 cents in San Francisco on Tuesday, but on Wednesday back to last Friday's level of $38\frac{1}{2}$ cents. Other Western markets held firm at prices of previous week on all grades. Supplies, during past week did not keep pace with demand. W.F.A. again helped out, by offering on Wednesday 29th, 110,000 cases shell eggs on invitation to bid basis. Offer closes December 15.

Important meeting December 12, 1944, at Hotel La Salle, Chicago, to outline W.F.A. Egg Program for the coming season. Lt. Col. Olmstead, Deputy Director for Supply, Office of Distribution, will address the meeting. Those interested are invited to attend.

Poultry: Limited supplies of all poultry failed to meet demand, and on most of the Western wholesale markets prices at the close of the week were pressing ceilings. Small sized turkeys generally not available, large birds for hotel and restaurant trade in fair supply. Storage supplies and small shipments from Middle west helping meet demand.

WFO 119 becomes effective December 11. Required 100 percent set aside on chickens for Army purchase in Delaware, and portions of Maryland and West Virginia.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: On most of the Western markets, good steers and heifers brought up to 25 cents more at the close of the week than for the previous week. Top prices for good steers, \$14.25 to \$15.00.

Receipts on the Western livestock markets for the past week were 92 percent of the previous week, and on the twelve principal markets were 261,500 head, up 17 percent from the previous week.

Improved pasturage conditions on the Pacific slope indicates that there may be heavier grass feeding operations along that area, and probable slowing up of marketing to take advantage of gains in weight.

Hogs: Receipts the past week on the twelve principal markets were 445,400 head, a 44 percent gain over the previous week but a 34 percent decline from those of a year ago same date.

Top prices on the Western markets for support weights barrows and gilts were \$14.00 to \$15.60. Markets averaged unsteady and prices dropped on the heavier weights about 25 cents. Responsibility probably centers on recent sharp advances in prices of all feed grains especially in Middlewest.

Sheep: 37,989 head were received on the four Western markets past week, a 22 percent increase over the previous week. The twelve principal markets received 283,400 head, an increase of 28 percent over the previous week but 13 percent under the same week a year ago.

Top prices spread \$13.00 to \$14.50, but prices declined slightly as receipts increased.

Wool: At the close of November the Boston wool market was reported as slow. Territory wool prices; original-bag Wyoming bulk fine staple shrinking 63 and 66 percent grease basis, 44.03 and 40.46 cents per pound. Graded Montana staple grease prices in Boston; fine (59 percent) 49.20 cents, $\frac{1}{2}$ blood (55 percent) 53.10 cents and $\frac{1}{4}$ blood (49 percent) 49.98 cents.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Rice: Demand for California rough rice the past week was greatly in excess of all offerings on the markets. Harvesting delayed account continued rains resulting further crop deterioration, and full ceiling returns to growers, \$3.44 to \$3.46 per cwt bulk basis f.o.b. principal California shipping points.

Wheat: Cash wheat prices slightly lower in the Pacific Northwest, and up in the Southwest. Portland: Soft White and Hard Red No.1 grade $1.52\frac{1}{2}$, and Western Red \$1.53 per bushel. No.1 Soft White Los Angeles $1.72\frac{1}{2}$, and San Francisco \$1.71 to \$1.74 per bushel.

Western growers are reported continuing to show strong tendency to hold supplies. Dealers and users, on the other hand, are endeavoring to replenish stocks.

Feed Grains: Prices on midwestern markets sharply advanced at close of week --- offerings limited.

Parity prices November 15, 1944: Wheat \$1.51; Corn \$1.10; Oats \$.682; Barley \$1.06; Flaxseed \$2.89 per bushel and beans \$5.76 per cwt.

Cotton: Prices reported strong at close of week, middling 15/16" on ten spot markets averaged 21.41 cents per pound on Friday, 21.33 cents the week previous and 19.35 a year ago.

B.A.E. reports farmers are paying an average of \$1.92 per 100 pounds of seed cotton to get the 1944 crop picked, highest average price paid in 21 years. Missouri holds highest rate of \$2.40, California and Arizona pay \$2.25, South Carolina lowest at \$1.45.

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